

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 ABF-01 SS-15 A-01
/098 W

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P 081758Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9343
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 07008

PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF UNFDAC/LAOS PROGRAM

REFS: (A) GENEVA 5372; (B) VIENTIANE 508

SUMMARY. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REXED INFORMED MISSION THAT
LPDR, AFTER FIRST REQUESTING UNFDAC TO MAKE CHANGES IN
AGREED PROGRAM, WROTE THE SYG REQUESTING THE ENDING OF
UNFDAC ACTIVITIES IN LAOS. END SUMMARY.

1. UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REXED INFORMED MISSION
OFFICER THAT ON MAY 3 THE FUND RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING
CABLE FROM MR. ARNAUD, DIRECTOR, UN PROGRAM FOR DRUG
ABUSE IN LAOS:

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BEGIN TEXT - "GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON BAN DONE TO BE
CENTRE DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL BECAUSE NO MOUNTAINOUS
SITE AVAILABLE AND PROJECT DOCUMENT TO BE AMENDED (TO
READ) 'CREATION INSTALLATION COMPLEXE DEVELOPPEMENT
RURAL DANS REGION BAN DONE'. MININT CONFIRMS THAT
AMOUNT MENTIONED PAGE TEN GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN PARA SIX
LINE TWO SHOULD BE MONTHLY DEPOSITED IN BANQUE IN

DOLLARS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM PRIME RATE FIVE HUNDRED KIP FOR (GARBLE). MININT SAID HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ALREADY WORKING THAT WAY AND THAT GOVERNMENT GOING ASK UN AGENCIES DO SAME. VARIOUS SOURCES SUGGESTED BETTER ACCEPT GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN AS IT IS IN ORDER EASE TENSION. SUGGEST GIVE ME ANSWERS IN SEPARATE CABLES, ONE URGENT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT WORK PLAN AND ONE FOR BAN DONE. AUHORITIES WOULD LIKE ANSWER FOR BOTH SUBJECTS FRIDAY LATEST. ARNAUD." END TEXT.

2. THE FUND MET ON MAY 5 TO CONSIDER RESPONSES TO THIS CABLE, WHICH DR. REXED CONSIDERED AN ULTIMATUM, INsofar AS IT PROVIDED SHORT RESPONSE TIME AND REQUIRED CHANGE IN THE AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE BAN DONE SITE, AND THE PROVISION OF FUNDS IN THE MANNER OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES RATHER THAN IN THE TRADITIONAL UNFDAC MODE OF PROVIDING EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE. WHILE THE FUND WAS SEEKING A METHOD TO ACHIEVE MORE TIME TO RESPOND, IT RECEIVED A PHONE CALL THE MORNING OF MAY 5 FROM ARNAUD IN VIENTIANE WHO STATED THAT LPDR HAS WRITTEN TO THE UN/SYG ASKING HIM TO PUT AN END TO UNFDAC ACTIVITIES IN LAOS WITH THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE DELAY. ARNAUD ADDED THAT BY HIS OWN INTERVENTION, HE HAD OBTAINED A DELAY OF THREE MONTHS TO WIND UP THE OFFICE. HE SAID THAT THE UNDP PERM REP HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE LPDR REQUEST.

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3. DR. REXED EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE LPDR DECISION, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN MORE RESPONSIVE TO LPDR THAN US THOUGHT APPROPRIATE, BUT THAT EVEN THIS LEVEL OF AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO LPDR WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM. HE SPECULATED THAT LPDR DECISION MIGHT BE BASED ON FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) BELIEF THAT FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED BY UNFDAC WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH APPLYING UNFDAC RULES AND CRITERIA; (B) INABILITY OF THE LPDR TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE CROP SUBSTITUTION SITE IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREEMENT OR (C) POSSIBLE INTENTION OF LPDR TO RESETTLE ALL MOUNTAIN PEOPLES IN THE PLAINS. REXED MENTIONED HIS IMPRESSION FROM TALKING TO ARNAUD THAT THE THIRD ASPECT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY IMPORTANT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTIDN CONCERNING THE FUND'S FUTURE INTENTIONS REGARDING LAOS, REXED SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY SENT THE SYG A LETTER PROVIDING THE BACKGROUND FROM THE FUND'S POINT OF VIEW TO THE LPDR DECISION. HE HAS NO FURTHER PLANS FOR APPROACHING THE LPDR, UNLESS THE SYG RECOMMENDS SUCH AN APPROACH. HE SAID THE FUND WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTACH A NARCOTICS ADVISER TO THE UNDP RES REP

STAFF TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE SCENE AND TO PROVIDE NARCOTIC
CONTROL INPUT TO THE UN ACTIVITIES. MISSION OFFICER OB-
SERVED THAT POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING THIS APPROACH MIGHT
BE WORTH PURSUING. VANDEN HEUVEL

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